

## Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 02612

NODIS

EYES ONLY SECRETARY VANCE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, RH, NI, US  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: NIGERIA'S GARBA DISCUSSES POSSIBLE  
MOVEMENT TOWARD A SETTLEMENT

1. WHEN JOSEPH GARBA, NIGERIA'S COMMISSIONER FOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DROPPED BY TO SEE ME LATE JUNE 22,  
HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD MET WITH NKOMO AND TINY  
ROWLAND OF LONRHO IN LONDON. ROWLAND SAID THAT VAN DER  
BYL HAD TOLD HIM THAT SMITH IS READY TO STEP DOWN BUT  
WANTS ASSURANCE THAT NKOMO WOULD BE ABLE TO FORM A  
GOVERNMENT IN WHICH THERE WOULD BE A PLACE FOR ALL OF  
THE OTHER FACTIONAL LEADERS. ROWLAND AND VAN DER BYL  
AGREED THAT BOTH NIGERIA AND THE U.S. OF COURSE WOULD  
HAVE TO BACK SUCH A PLAN FOR IT TO SUCCEED. NKOMO  
TOLD GARBA THAT HE WANTED TO PLAY THIS SUGGESTION OUT  
A BIT FURTHER BEFORE TALKING WITH MUGABE.

2. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT GARBA WAS IMPLYING THAT NIGERIA  
IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE PATRIOTIC  
FRONT. HE THINKS THIS MAY OFFER AN OPENING FOR REAL  
POSITIVE MOVEMENT TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. HE APPEARED  
TO WANT TO KNOW THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH A SCHEME,

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IF IT COULD BE PUT IN MOTION. I TOLD GARBA THAT THE  
U.S. CERTAINLY WOULD NOT OPPOSE A SETTLEMENT PLAN  
JUST BECAUSE IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE ANGLO-AMERICAN  
PLAN. IF A PROPOSAL INCLUDED ALL PARTIES AND SUCCEEDED  
IN AVOIDING CIVIL WAR, I THOUGHT THE U.S. WOULD NOT  
DISCOURAGE THE EFFORT. IN FACT, IF IT WERE SUCCESSFUL,  
WE WOULD WELCOME IT.

3. GARBA SAID HE TOLD ROWLAND TO GO BACK AND TALK FURTHER WITH VAN DER BYL. GARBA PLANS TO RETURN TO LONDON THIS SUNDAY (JUNE 25), ENROUTE BACK TO LAGOS. HE APPARENTLY HOPES TO SEE NKOMO AGAIN, AND POSSIBLY ROWLAND AND OTHERS AS WELL, POSSIBLY IN PARIS. YOUNG

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## Message Attributes

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